

Serial No. 10/648,292

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A steering wheel comprising comprising:

a steering wheel body ~~and a switch operation portion; the steering wheel body comprises~~ that comprises a steering wheel core including a ring core of a ring portion, a boss core of a boss portion, and a plurality of spoke cores of spokes, wherein the ring portion being held is held during steering, the boss portion being located is located in the center of the ring portion, and the spokes connecting connect the ring portion and the boss portion;

a pad located above the boss portion, wherein the pad is joined to the steering wheel core;
and

a switch operation portion; wherein the switch operation portion is separated from the pad and is arranged outward from the pad toward the ring, wherein:

upon self-alignment of the steering wheel, a ring plane of the steering wheel body has the ring plane thereof is displaced toward the vertical plane by means of due to plastic deformation of the steering wheel core;

the switch operation portion is disposed in at least one of two spokes located in the front side, the two front spokes neighboring a front space inside the ring portion and being arranged generally symmetrically relative to the boss portion; and

the cores of the front spokes comprise deformable deforming portions, respectively, at positions generally symmetric relative to the boss portion and toward the boss portion relative to the switch operation portion, whereby the front spoke cores are twist deformable twist-deform upon self-alignment.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No. 10/648,292

2. (Currently amended) The steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the deforming portions are first deforming portions, and wherein each of the front spoke cores further comprises, at a position toward the ring portion relative to the deformable portions corresponding one of the first deforming portions, a second deformable deforming portion which ~~is twist deformable~~twist deforms upon self-alignment.

3. (Currently amended) The steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the switch operation portion is screw-fixed to the front spoke core at only one position.

4. (Currently amended) The steering wheel according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising a pad above the boss portion, wherein:~~

~~the pad is joined to a core of a rear spoke and held thereat, the rear spoke being located rearward of the front spokes; and~~

~~the rear spoke core comprises a plastically deformable deforming portion at a position forward of the joint with the pad, wherein the plastically deforming ~~deformable~~ portion being deforms plastically ~~deformable~~ upon self-alignment.~~

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.